

THE *Dan Smoot Report*



DAN SMOOT

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OUR PRIMARY ENEMY: THE SOVIET BLOC

In the fall of 1965, the U. S. government sponsored its first "trade mission" to communist Rumania. U. S. Representative Wilbur Mills (Arkansas Democrat) learned that while the U.S. contingent was visiting the Red Star truck plant at Brasov, Rumania, an American expert freely gave the communist plant manager technical advice on how to redesign badly-functioning cam shafts in Red Star truck engines. Less than a year later, intelligence officials reported that new Red Star trucks, imported at Hanoi and used to speed communist supplies and forces against American troops in Vietnam, had been equipped with redesigned cam shafts which made the trucks more reliable, less apt to break down.⁽¹⁾

While the American trade mission to Rumania was settling down comfortably in plush quarters, Lutheran minister Richard Wurmbrand was being detained against his will in *Rumania*, awaiting completion of a \$7,000 ransom agreement between his captors and a friendly church group. Wurmbrand had just endured 14 years of communist captivity. Of his prison experience, Wurmbrand testified:

"They tortured us by all means. They beat until they broke the bones. They used red-hot irons, they used everything."⁽¹⁾

On building bridges of trade and aid with communists, Wurmbrand testified:

"We were in the 14th year of prison. Major Alexandrescu, the commandant of the prison, delivered us a speech and said:

"'You fools, you sit for 15 or 20 years in prison and expect the Americans to come and release you. Now I will give you the news. The Americans come, but not to release you. They come to help us, to make business with us. You fools have not known. The Americans, if you beg them, they give you nothing. If you insult them, if you mock them, they give you money. We have been more clever than you.'"⁽¹⁾

This is just another episode in a continued story that began when Franklin D. Roosevelt extended diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union in 1933.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: \$18.00 for 2 years; \$10.00, 1 year; \$6.00, 6 months; first class, \$12.50 a year; airmail, \$14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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President Johnson entertains the old Roosevelt illusion that he can make "good communists" of the Soviets and their satellites by turning the other cheek and treating them with kindness.

At present, there is a worldwide propaganda effort by liberals to convince the American public that the Soviets are our best hope for ending the war in Vietnam. Note, for example, a story from London (printed under banner headlines in American newspapers on February 15, 1967) to the effect that the Soviets — with a "deep, genuine . . . anxiety for a settlement" of the Vietnam conflict — had urged North Vietnamese communist rulers to stop sending troops and arms to South Vietnam. The story was mere speculation, based on second and third hand reports from unnamed "sources."⁽²⁾

The fact is that the Soviets and their Eastern European satellites are still our primary enemy in Vietnam. The red Chinese give material aid to North Vietnam and have about 100,000 troops there;⁽²⁾ but the Soviets and the Eastern European communist nations are the chief suppliers of important war goods to North Vietnam. Western trade and aid to Soviet-bloc countries help make it possible for them to supply North Vietnam abundantly.

On October 7, 1966, President Johnson — claiming that "the winds of change . . . are blowing in Eastern Europe" — listed several concessions to Soviet-bloc nations which he had already made or was asking Congress to authorize. The concessions include gifts of American tax money to communist nations, the use of American tax money to subsidize trade with communists, the use of American tax money to finance the building of industrial plants in communist-bloc countries. These measures — and many more almost as incredible — are supposed to help us build bridges of friendship to the Soviet Union and her Eastern European satellites. Johnson said:

"Where possible, we shall work with the East to build a lasting peace. We do not intend to let our differences in Vietnam or elsewhere ever prevent us from exploring all opportunities."⁽³⁾

Concerning these comments by the President, Congressman James B. Utt said:

"In other words, we will just ignore 'our differences on Vietnam,' which include, among other things, the fact that those are Russian bullets and Russian mortars that are killing American boys, and go ahead with . . . selling the Russians material that will make it easier for them to make bullets and mortars with which to kill American boys.

"The rationale behind all of this dangerous nonsense is that the Russians and their slave states are somehow changing and softening . . .

"There has not been one single indication of any change in the communists' attitude; they are still out to conquer the world, with America as the prime target."

"The war in Vietnam is a communist war fully supported by all . . . communist nations."⁽⁴⁾

While Johnson was making his October 7, 1966, speech, policy planners from Eastern European communist nations were meeting with the Soviets in Moscow. During that meeting, the Soviet-bloc countries pledged an additional \$1 billion in goods and cash to North Vietnam.⁽⁵⁾

On November 15, 1966, Soviet communist party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, speaking on radio in Bulgaria, said:

"The all-around aid being rendered by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to fighting Vietnam is of concrete effective nature, and let everyone know that it will continue The Bulgarian People's Republic, just as other socialist states, is rendering the people of Vietnam fraternal aid in their struggle against the imperialist aggressor."⁽⁵⁾

On November 30, 1966, Hungarian Premier Kallai, speaking on radio in Budapest, said:

"The U.S. administration has recently emphasized on several occasions that it desires to improve its relations with the socialist countries in Europe. The American administration knows very well, however, that it will be unable to normalize relations with the European socialist countries as long as it is conducting aggression against a socialist country in Southeast Asia."⁽⁵⁾

On December 1, 1966, the Premier of communist Bulgaria, speaking on radio Sofia, said:

"The Bulgarian government has extended and will continue to extend moral-political support and material aid to the Vietnamese people to bolster their economic and defense capability."⁽⁵⁾

On December 1, 1966, a member of the communist party central committee of the Soviet Union, speaking on Moscow radio, said:

"The Soviet Union is rendering and will continue to render ever-growing, all-around assistance to the people of Vietnam in their courageous struggle against U. S. aggression."⁽⁵⁾

On December 3, 1966, Janos Kadar, communist director of Hungary, speaking on radio in Budapest, said:

"We are fighting against U.S. aggression in Vietnam and will go on helping our Vietnamese brothers until their cause is crowned by ultimate victory."⁽⁵⁾

On December 4, 1966, communist radio Prague in Czechoslovakia reported:

"The entire socialist world has joined forces to provide Vietnam with all conceivable assistance — economic, financial, and technical, as well as political, including the Soviet offer to allow volunteers from Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries to go to Vietnam."⁽⁵⁾

Ignoring the facts, President Johnson, in his State of the Union speech on January 10, 1967, again listed all that he has done and wants to do for Soviet-bloc nations, claiming that "our relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are . . . in transition," and asking Congress for legislation to increase our trade and aid to the communists.

Two days later — January 12 — the Soviet foreign aid minister said in Moscow:

"The deliveries of Soviet goods to this heroic country [North Vietnam] is part of the great contribution which our people are making to the just struggle of the fraternal Vietnamese people against the aggression of American imperialism."⁽⁵⁾

On January 25, 1967, the Soviet President said in Rome:

"The Soviet Union is giving and will continue to give . . . North Vietnam ever-growing aid until the full triumph of the just cause for which the Vietnamese people are struggling."⁽⁶⁾

Soviet goods sent to North Vietnam include mineral fertilizers, rolled steel, trucks, tractors, cables, medical preparations, canned food, flour, gasoline, diesel oil, grease, powerplants, MIG-21 aircraft, surface-to-air-missiles, anti-aircraft guns, radars, computers.⁽⁵⁾

Russian-made missiles (probably manned by Russians) are killing American airmen. There have been reports of Russian mines planted in the ship channel into Saigon. The Soviets have a radar and communications vessel in Tonkin Gulf, monitoring our carrier activities and giving warning to communist gun and missile crews and fighter pilots in North Vietnam.⁽⁵⁾

Congressman Melvin Laird says:

"Practically every American plane that has been shot down over North Vietnam has fallen victim to Soviet-made and Soviet-supplied surface-to-air missiles or anti-aircraft batteries; American planes have been tracked by Soviet radars; American ground forces have been subjected to substantial casualties caused by Soviet and East European military equipment; and the Vietcong and North Vietnamese regulars have been supplied in the south by trucks made in these countries"

"Approximately 80 percent of the weapons and strategic material of war have been supplied to the communists in Vietnam . . . by the Soviet Union and her East European satellites"

"Trade with communist countries aids them . . . and permits them to concentrate even more heavily on developing weapons of war."⁽⁵⁾

Administration spokesmen, supporting Johnson's bridge-building efforts to make friends of Eastern European communist nations, often cite our "good" relations with Poland as proof of accomplishment.

Since 1945, our government has given communist Poland 550 millions of our tax dollars in military and economic aid.⁽⁵⁾ Yet, in his October

7, 1966, speech, Johnson said "the Secretary of State is now reviewing the possibility of easing the burden of Polish debts to the United States through expenditures of our Polish currency holdings" ⁽³⁾

Our Polish currency holdings were acquired by sales of American foodstuffs under the Food for Peace program. Johnson now proposes that the Polish currency we own be spent in Poland for projects mutually agreed upon by the U.S. and Polish governments. Congressman Paul Findley points out that this scheme of "easing the burden of Polish debts to the United States" amounts to another outright multi-million dollar gift to a communist nation. He suggests that the administration withdraw this proposal and demand full payment from Poland in American dollars. ⁽⁷⁾

Attempting to show that our policy toward Poland has been wise and productive of good for the United States, Anthony M. Solomon (Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs) said, on October 21, 1966:

"We encouraged the trend toward greater independence [of Poland from Soviet control] through our Food for Peace program, our Export-Import Bank credits, and our trade policy." ⁽⁵⁾

Even as these words were being spoken, ships laden with Polish goods to be used against American troops were on their way to North Vietnam. On October 1, 1966, a newspaper in Hamburg, West Germany, reported:

"Weapons of the Polish armed forces are being shipped from the Stettin harbor in ever increasing quantities to . . . North Vietnamese harbors While on one side of the Stettin harbor, American wheat is being unloaded from freighters, on the other side of the same harbor, weapons are loaded which are being used against American soldiers." ⁽⁵⁾

On November 23, 1966, W. Averell Harriman, Johnson's Ambassador at Large, criticized, on national tv, opponents of the administration's efforts to build bridges of friendship and increase trade with communist nations. Harriman said:

"A lot of bigoted, pigheaded people, who don't know what's going on in the world, have pre-

vented us from helping our balance of payments, you know, extending our exports." ⁽⁵⁾

Concerning Harriman's comments, Congressman Glenard Lipscomb said:

"Just the money required to buy replacement attack aircraft for those destroyed this current fiscal year by weapons built by the communists of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, could be at least five times the dollar value of the entire export trade which the administration has been able to effect with the communists in 1966. The lives lost cannot be replaced. Where does our sense of values lie?" ⁽⁵⁾

NEXT WEEK: More on President Johnson's bridge building.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) "Our Friends, The Communists," *The Manion Forum Newsletter*, July, 1966, p. 1
- (2) AP dispatch from London, England, *The Dallas Times Herald*, February 15, 1967, pp. A1, 12
- (3) "Transcript of President's Speech on Improving Relations With Eastern Europe," *The New York Times*, October 8, 1966, p. 12
- (4) *Washington Report*, by U.S. Rep. James B. Utt (California Republican), February 8, 1967
- (5) "Foreign Aid and the Fight Against Communism," submitted by U.S. Rep. John Saylor (Pennsylvania Republican); "Administration's East-West Trade Proposals Must Be Studied By Congress," speech by U.S. Rep. Glenard Lipscomb (California Republican); "Consular Convention," speech by U.S. Sen. Karl Mundt (South Dakota Republican), *Congressional Record(s)*, September 1, 1966, January 17, 1967, February 3, 1967, pp. A4647-8, H256-62, S1467-72 (dailies)
- (6) "Quotes From The News," *The Dallas Times Herald*, January 25, 1967, p. A2
- (7) "Congressman Critical Of Proposed Change In Debt Owed By Poland," *The Wanderer*, February 2, 1967, p. 2

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